

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	Attorney Docket No.: ASAIN0173
)	
Kazuhiko KATSUMATA)	Confirmation No.: 6594
)	
Serial No.: 10/562,498)	Group Art Unit: 3749
)	
Filed: December 27, 2005)	Examiner: Gregory A. Wilson
)	
For: GAS COOLING TYPE VACUUM)	Date: December 18, 2008
HEAT TREATING FURNACE AND)	
COOLING GAS DIRECTION)	
SWITCHING DEVICE THEREFOR)	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

MAIL STOP: Amendment

United States Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, this Information Disclosure Statement in connection with the above-identified application is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d).

The documents identified on Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B were cited in a Supplemental Search Report issued in a corresponding European application. Since all of the documents cited herein were cited in said Search Report, it is believed that the relevance of each document cited is clear from the Search Report, and accordingly, no further comment with regard to the disclosure of these documents is believed to be required. A copy of each non-U.S. document identified on the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B is attached, however, in accordance with Official Gazette Notice dated August 5, 2003, copies

of the U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached.

The Search Report was completed on November 4, 2008 and mailed on November 11, 2008, less than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the attached documents be considered and officially cited, and that the Examiner initial a copy of Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B, and return them to the undersigned to indicate that the documents have been considered.

A fee of \$180.00 as required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is attached. It is therefore believed that the present Information Disclosure Statement complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97-8, but if additional fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge the necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1281.

Respectfully submitted,

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